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## (54) STERILIZATION TREATMENT OF TAMPON

### (57)Abstract:

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To provide a sterilization treatment method of a tampon which shortens the time required for sterilization treatment without affecting the quality of the tampon and enhances production efficiency at the time of subjecting the tampon packaged in a state having air permeability to the sterilization treatment by bringing the tampon into contact with gaseous ethylene oxide.

**SOLUTION:** The packaged tampon is brought into contact with the gaseous ethylene oxide within a range of 30 to 70° C and is subjected to the sterilization within this temp. range, following which the gaseous ethylene oxide is removed from the packaged tampon. At the time of removal, the desorption operation of reducing the internal pressure until the pressure attains  $\leq 0.93$  kg/cm<sup>2</sup>G, then restoring the atm. pressure by introducing the air is carried to  $\geq 1$  times. The tampon is otherwise held for 5 to 20 hours at the temp. within the range of 50 to 60° C under the reduced pressure within the range of -0.4 to -0.93 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>G and is then restored to the atm. pressure.

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